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Supply of radium needles to the Government General Hospital, Madras.

*107 *Q.*—Dr. P. V. CHERIYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any supply of radium needles was recently received at the Government General Hospital, Madras, from Canada ;

(*b*) what the price paid for the supply is ;

(*c*) who authorized payment for the needles ;

(*d*) what precautions were taken to see whether the needles were of the correct type before payment was made ; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that a very large number of these needles are defectively filled and that they are lying idle at the Barnard Institute of Radiology?

The Hon. Sri C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" (*a*) Yes, a consignment of radium needles was received from Canada on 9th August 1951. This is part of the needles remade from the old and unserviceable needles of the Barnard Institute sent to Canada for remaking.

" (*b*) A sum of $ 2,602 was paid for this part-consignment.

" (*c*) The State Government.

" (*d*) Specifications regarding the dimensions of external and internal lengths were obtained at the outset. Though the auto-photographs sent by the firm of the needles chosen at random showed a satisfactory filling, auto-photographs of all the needles were insisted on for scrutiny before payment. The defects pointed out were asked to be rectified by the firm.

" (*e*) 104 Radium containers (100 Radium needles and 4 Radium tubes) with a total content of 170 m.grms., were received back on 9th August 1951, after remaking, from Messrs. X-ray and Radium Industries, Canada (formerly known as the Radium Luminous Industries). Out of these 104 containers, 61 needles have not been remade satisfactorily. A protest has already been lodged with the Company and the matter is under correspondence. This Company has yet to return after remaking 61 Radium containers (needles). The 61 defective needles are now lying idle at the Barnard Institute of Radiology, Government General Hospital, Madras."

Dr. P. V. CHERIYAN :—" May I ask, Sir, how payment was made before it was made sure that the needles were not defective? "

The Hon. Sri C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" Because such a condition was not in the original agreement but it was inserted later on. The company in Canada insisted on payment and there was no other go but to pay them."

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DR. SYED TAJUDDIN :—" May I know, Sir, who was responsible for such a state of things? Should not the Government see that before payment is made precautions have been taken? "

THE HON. SRI C. PERUMALSAMI REDDI :—" I will enquire about it."

Investments in the Central Land Mortgage Bank by the co-operative societies.

* 108 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. **the Minister for Food be pleased to state—**

(a) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been permitted to advise the co-operative societies to find investment in the debentures of the Central Land Mortgage Bank; and

(b) whether, in view of principles of finance involved in investing short-term deposits or borrowings in long-term investment and in view of the strong difference in views on this held by prominent co-operators, the Government have considered the desirability of referring the question to the Reserve Bank of India for their opinion?

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The answer is in the negative."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know, Sir, when there is such a keen difference of opinion expressed by prominent co-operators who are well-versed in the matter of co-operative finance, should not Government refer the matter to an expert authority like the Reserve Bank of India before allowing the opinion of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to prevail? " 2–45 p.m.

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" The whole question was raised by the Provincial Co-operative Bank and after some correspondence between that Bank and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies the correspondence was closed because the Registrar satisfied the points raised by the President in regard to the advisability of investment in Land Mortgage Banks. So, no necessity was felt to refer the matter to the Reserve Bank of India."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I take it that the information of the Government is that all the criticisms were answered by the Registrar to the satisfaction of the President, and is that on record? "

THE HON. SRI J. L. P. ROCHE VICTORIA :—" Yes, Sir. At least the question was not raised afterwards, and so it was understood that no further points were in dispute. Therefore it was considered that the matter was closed."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Are the Government aware that further discussions were not pursued because the Government refused to move in the matter? "